

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated August 1, 2008, the Examiner has objected to certain aspects of the specification and claims. By this paper, the specification and claims have been amended in a manner, kindly suggested by the Examiner, to overcome the objections and more particularly describe and claim that which Applicant considers to be the invention. Further, the Examiner has withdrawn Claims 31-44 from consideration and finally rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 12, 23-30, 45, and 47-50 under 35 USC § 103. By this paper, it is proposed that Claims 1 and 23, 28, and 50 be amended, and Claims 45 and 47-49 be cancelled without prejudice. For the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that when amended as proposed the amended Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 12, 23-30, and 50 should now be allowed.

Applicant's invention is directed to a printer or other deposition device for charged powder including multiple toning stations. The multiple toning stations may be arranged in the device so as to increase a toning width of the device, thereby allowing the device to deposit particles or to print onto larger process widths. The toning stations may be arranged in a variety of different configurations. The toning stations may be positioned to overlap or to have gaps between the toning stations. Therefore, there is provide an improved system for increasing the toning width of a printer or other toner deposition system while still maintaining the quality of the resulting image and the uniformity of toner deposition. In many common printing applications and powder coating applications which require a larger toning width, there exists a tradeoff between increasing the length of the toning roller and maintaining the uniformity of toner deposition, and therefore also the uniformity of laydown. That is, the toning width could be increased by increasing the length of the toning roller, but runout, spacing differences to the receiver along the length of the roller or other non-uniformities in the longer toning roller would cause an undesirable decrease in the uniformity of toner deposition and the image quality. Therefore, Applicant's invention, when claimed as proposed, provides a significant, non-obvious, improvement over any prior art known to Applicant.

The Examiner has finally rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 12, 23, and 50 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Desie et al. (US 6,246,421 B1) in view of Kaukeinen et al (JP 07043978 A); Claims 1 and 8 stand finally rejected

under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Desie et al. (US 6,246,421 B1) in view of Costrop et al. (US 5,848,339) and further in view of Kaukeinen et al (JP 07043978 A); Claims 23-27 and 30 stand finally rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rushing (US 6,671,052 B1) in view of Kaukeinen et al (JP 07043978 A); and Claims 23, 28, and 29 stand finally rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Desie et al. (US 6,246,421 B1) in view of Nakazato (US 6,483,997) and further in view of Kaukeinen et al (JP 07043978 A). The Examiner contends that the primary reference to Desie et al. discloses a magnetic core for forming a magnetic brush and a toning roller for applying the magnetic brush. However, the Desie, et al. reference, when utilizing the definition of a toning roller as specified by Applicant, shows only a single toning roller (element 103) having overlapping areas provided with toner, and not multiple toning stations sets with each toning station having a magnetic brush and a toning roller as now claimed. The single toning roller presents the very problem noted as occurring in the prior art; that is, upon increasing the toning width by increasing the length of the toning roller can be problematic due to runout, spacing differences to the receiver along the length of the roller, or other non-uniformities in the longer toning roller which could cause a decrease in the uniformity of toner deposition and the image quality. The remaining cited references to Kaukeinen, et al., Costrop, et al., Rushing, and Nakazato, et al. only develop images directly in line in the receiver transport path. They provide no teaching that could properly be used to suggest the combination with Desie, et al. to extend the width of the development zone in the direction perpendicular to the receiver transport path. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as now claimed would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art when the references are taken alone or in any proper combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 12, 23-30, and 50, when amended as herein proposed, the claims remaining in this Application, should now be allowed.

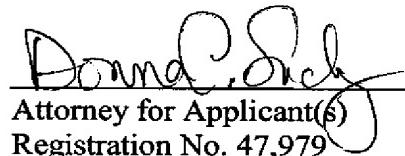
Applicant is not aware of any additional patents, publications, or other information not previously submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office which would be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.99.

When amended as requested, this Application is believed to be in condition for favorable reconsideration and early allowance, and such actions are

respectfully requested. If the Examiner still considers that this Application is not in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this proposed Amendment be entered as placing this Application in better condition for appeal.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company, Deposit Account No. 05-0225.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.